Colorado Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Colo. Dept. of Agriculture, 700 Kipling St., 4th Floor Conference Room

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions: committee members and guests

Meeting was called to order by chair, Susan at 9:37 a.m.

Members in attendance: Susan Panjabi, Ken Harper, Jack Flowers, Louis Bridges, Ben Duke, Fran Pannebaker, George Beck, Ed Norden, Terri Schulz, Sheila Grother, Jim Walker, Randy Malcom

Members Excused: Karen Scopel, Fred Midcap, Don Hijar, Phyllis Lake, Ken Harper Staff: Steve Ryder, State Weed Coordinator, Patty York, EDRR Specialist and, Maurina Paradise, Program Assistant

- 2. Review Agenda:
 - a. Call for revisions
 - b. No changes to agenda
- 3. Review minutes from last meeting
 - a. Call for revisions
 - b. No changes suggested
 - c. Ed moved to approve, Terri second, passed
- 4. Follow up items from November 2011 meeting
 - a. Chufa/yellow nutsedge letter (Terri and Susan reviewing) Steve
 - i. Susan reviewed letter; suggested that letter come from Steve since listed species wants power of the law behind letter
 - ii. Weed science organization of America listed nutsedge one of top 5 worst weeds in the world; problem w/ onion and rice growers
 - iii. Committee asked that language be added/ strength and send out
 - b. Spurge alert letter to green industry
 - i. Focus of letter more on partnership rather than strong regulations
 - ii. Patty shared "Grow me instead" book with suggestion in letter to ask industry to "join us" in building a similar book, partner w/ CWMA
 - iii. CC: to Botanic Gardens, CSU Horticulture and CWMA, Colorado Nursery Growers Association
 - iv. Since letter is coming from Patty then letter can go out without further review by committee
- 5. Election/Appointment of Chair and Co-chair for 2012
 - a. Susan and Karen willing to serve but want to open to other members if anyone else would like to serve in either position
 - b. Ben nominates to maintain status quo, George seconded; motion carries
- 6. Subcommittee Matters
 - a. Review and adopt subcommittee structure; assign all members
 - i. Ken and Louis Bridges joined policy and enforcement; Jack joined partnerships; Ben Duke moved to policy and enforcement
 - b. Meet in subcommittees and discuss topics of interest for 2012
 - c. Subcommittee reports

- i. Weed Science: bullets as written were good for describing what the group will focus on; for 2012 looking at aquatic weed assessment form so see if that would work better for aquatic species than the current PAF; only 4 more List B species need management plans, but updating older List B management plans in upcoming years is desirable; look at list A species for recommendations to CDA; EDRR how to get the new/ updated information out, outreach program; site-led pilot program in 2012; Steve asked for management plan ideas for Russian olive and Canada Thistle need to get creative with our approach to plans since these two species are so widespread; maybe tie in site lead approach.
- ii. Partnership and Funding: Mostly did background since three members are new to committee; who partners are and most important partners, what do the partnerships mean; communication with CCI (Colorado Counties Incorporated) is desirable, especially if we can gain its support with funding and enforcement issues; should offer to make presentations and make inroads with CCI; getting county commissioners aware of weed issues, educational effort, look at weed advisory boards and help with weed management plans; should also look at wildlife associations (tap into educating members) could provide political support
- iii. Policy and Enforcement: enforcement at county level (varies widely by county); does the state weed law needs better "teeth" to help with enforcement? Growing number of counties don't have funding/ resources to address weed issues; while knowing big stick is there but should focus on building partnerships and pooling resources together to address issues allowing counties to enact some of the enforcement that state act allows for; CDOT and county entities are getting better at managing roadways/ common areas but still have issues with private landowners; would like to build partnerships that would allow county to do what state enforcement requires

7. 2012 Weed Act Rule

- a. Designation and classification of noxious weeds and watch list species
- b. Issues within the existing rule
 - i. Will be submitting Rule for comment, and approval in early April 2012; Steve and Patty will be tapping into expertise of committee for ironing out remaining questions
- 8. Weed Act Compliance/Adherence Discussion
 - a. CDA's approach to date
 - b. Noxious Weed Act compliance provisions
 - c. Issues with current compliance efforts (all levels of gov't.)
 - d. Ideas to improve compliance/adherence, with enforcement as one tool
- 9. Placing economic value on noxious weeds and their control
- 10. Statewide education campaign idea
 - a. Idea of partnering with CWMA to expand on work of County weed programs; steering committee is being formed; looking for proposals from experts for

ideas, cost, etc... just starting/ getting off ground; include extension offices? Again, pool together limited resources to make it be enough rather than one source

b. Steve will update committee in next meeting (in May)

11. State Weed Coordinator Update

- a. Noxious weed team: state and federal agencies with emphasis of getting state agencies on board with state weed act along with federal; lot of interest from fed agencies; next meeting February 24th.
- b. Parks and wildlife consolidated aquatic nuisance species program and got rid of terrestrial weed/invasive species coordinator position; reorganization still underway
- c. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): clean water act implementation, due to court case pesticide spraying is considered a pollutant and thus a discharge permit is required (by EPA). Administered through CDPHE but they don't have funding to enforce; reporting requirements are uncertain; CWMA doing workshops on how this is going impact weed management (pesticide use); factors include amount, nearness to water, etc...
- d. Legislative update
- e. Weed grants for 2012; RFPs
 - i. Will be posted online with first week of February and will notify as many people as we can
 - ii. \$200,000 level of fund for weed grants
 - iii. State and Private Forestry, unknown, don't have number from USFS but estimated 20% cut so thinking about \$60,000 less than last year

f. Committee sunset review

i. Committee is slated to end in 2013; formal review process via DORA and information submitted then in 2013 legislative session continuance of committee must be passed as part of a bill

12. EDRR Update

- a. Watch list update
 - i. The new Watch List pamphlet is now complete and posted on the Ag website. I handed out copies to those in the room, and reminded them that we are collecting further information on these species over the next couple years in order to determine whether they belong on one of our regulated lists.
- b. Phase II of mapping system
 - i. Phase II development is underway and we hope to complete the phase by the beginning of the field season. Phase II will incorporate site polygons and points to indicate "hotspots" within sites.
- 13. Roundtable: announcements, comments, next meeting date
 - a. Next Meeting: May 3rd and 4th in La Junta; August 23, 24 in Ft. Collins (CSU, NIIS, other ideas, etc...) October 26th (hope that it's after the Ag Commission meeting) in Lakewood

14. Adjourn Meeting

a. Terri moved, Karen seconded motion carried